

# Children's Immunisation Centre

## PNEUMOCOCCAL MENINGITIS

### GENERAL PATIENT INFORMATION

#### MENINGITIS

**Your child's Red Book will indicate that they have already received Meningitis C vaccination. This is completely different from the vaccine in the new scheme and should not be confused.** This leaflet is intended to answer some of the most commonly asked questions and assist you in deciding whether you need to take additional steps to protect your children aged 4 and over and yourself as you fall outside the NHS scheme where under 2's are given PCV (Prevenar) to protect them.

*Here are the answers to the most commonly asked questions:*

#### 1. What is Meningitis?

Literally, Meningitis means swelling of the meninges, which are the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused either by viral infection or bacterial infection. **Several different bacteria can cause the condition and this is why there is more than one vaccine.** The bacteria lives in the nose of 10% of people and is passed on by saliva and close contact.

#### 2. What is the survival rate?

Bacterial Meningitis is a very serious condition, fatal in around 20% of cases. A further 25% of those who survive suffer life changing side effects, including brain damage, loss of limbs (due to blood poisoning), deafness and epilepsy.

#### 3. Who is most at risk?

Meningitis can strike at any time through childhood or adulthood, although statistically it is most common amongst the under 5's and 15-19 age group. **It is licensed in the USA for 2 – 55 year olds.**

#### 4. What kind of protection does my child already have?

Viral infection is the most common cause of Meningitis, although fortunately the less severe. Currently, no preventative treatment is available for viral Meningitis. In 1999, a Meningitis 'Type C' vaccine was introduced to protect against the *Meningococcal Type C* bacterium. If your child is under 4, they should have routinely received this. Also under 2's are now routinely given protection from Pneumococcal Meningitis.

## 5. What protection does my child *not* have?

Currently, they are not protected against *Pneumococcal* Meningitis. If they are older than 4 years please check as *Pneumococcal* Meningitis is now the second most common type and accounts for over 5,000 serious infections each year. This is the strain the new government programme is designed to prevent. However it will only be available to under 2's through your GP.

## 6. What about my older children?

The government is not funding a 'catch up' programme for children aged over 24 months in all areas, or adults. However, Patients over 65 years will get this jab free on the NHS.

The Children's Immunisation Centre is once again filling in the gap left by the NHS. We have been offering *Pneumococcal* Meningitis jabs for some time and will continue to do so to provide Peace of Mind for all parents and adults.

For Meningitis in particular, prevention rather than treatment is critical, as the condition progresses rapidly and early symptoms can easily be confused with common coughs and colds.

### Requirements for Adults - Parents

As this is a new vaccine not available when you were a baby, we recommend all adults get vaccinated especially as it has the additional benefit of protection against pneumonia, blood poisoning and otitis media (middle ear infection).

If you have a parent aged 65+ years it is free on the NHS.

### Children aged 5+, teens and adults

The recommended vaccine is 'Pneumovax', which offers a broad protection and not only protects against pneumococcal meningitis but also pneumonia.

Our immunisation centre is obviously pro-vaccination and we would recommend all children and adults have this vaccination, especially as it is a travel vaccine for Dubai and the Far East. It is also recommended for people who travel or mix in public places like universities, colleges, business centres and use public transport.

## **Side Effects**

Medicines and their possible side effects can affect individual people in different ways; the following are some of the side effects that are known to be associated with this vaccine. It does not mean that all people using this vaccine will have side effects.

Common adverse reactions: Local redness and/or swelling around the site of the injection, mild fever, tiredness, enlarged glands or headache.

## **Manufacturers recommend we follow these guidelines:-**

Our doctor will discuss your health if you are an adult having a single vaccine or your child's health and any of your concerns and examine you or your child prior to immunisation.

### **The patient must not be suffering from a fever or be on antibiotics**

#### ***Use with caution in:***

- Conditions in which fever should be avoided
- HIV infection
- Injury to the brain

#### ***Not to be used in:***

- Allergy to diphtheria toxoid
- Blood disorders
- Decreased action of the body's natural defences against disease (impaired response)
- Pregnancy
- Previous extreme allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to any of the vaccine's components
- Sudden feverish illness
- Previous extreme allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to the antibiotic Neomycin
- Untreated malignant or cancerous disease

## **Post Vaccination**

After vaccination, if you are worried about a reaction, please contact the Centre for advice Monday – Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm; after hours and at weekends, you should contact your G.P. or hospital in severe cases (this would be extremely rare). Should you have had cause to contact your GP, we would appreciate a call about the nature and outcome of your visit so we can put it on your patient record card.

Please phone 0905 48 50 100.

## **Private Facilities**

Our clinics are situated near both the centre of Manchester, Birmingham and London, Harley Street where most private medical clinics can be found. Wheelchair facilities are available.

## **Care Quality Commission**

We have been inspected and have our registration from the Care Quality Commission. Should you have any complaints about conduct or service, please contact us first on 0905 48 50 100 and we will respond to you within 2 days (you can also request our Complaints Policy by telephone or download from [.childrensimmunisation.com](http://.childrensimmunisation.com)). We welcome any suggestions that may help us improve our service. If you wish to contact the CQC, their number is 03000 616161. A summary of the CQC inspection report will also be available from CQC at Finsbury Tower, 103-105 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8TG.

## **Fees Payable**

Meningitis £95.00  
*No Registration fee for parents*



## **Children's Immunisation Centre**

**19 St John Street  
Manchester  
M3 4DS**

**10 The Minories, Temple  
Court, Birmingham  
B4 6AG**

**139 Harley Street  
London  
W1G 6BG**

**To book an appointment please call 0905 48 50 100**  
Calls are charged at 30p/min

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